

California Garden

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mrs Mary A. Greer, President
Woodcrest 2267
Mr. Silas B. Osborn, Vice-President
Mr. Arthur M. Shoven, Treasurer
J-7138

Mrs. S. H. Carse
Mrs Robert Morrison
Mr. Arthur M. Shoven
Mrs. J. Terrell Scott
W. Allen Perry

Mrs. DeForrest Ward, Secretary
Woodcrest 5022

Member
American Rose Society
California Fuchsia Society

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
P. O. Box 323, San Diego, Calif.

Silas B. Osborn, Editor
Alice M. Clark, Associate Editor
Ida Louise Bryant, Associate Editor

SEPTEMBER, 1944

Vol. 35

No. 2

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month

Subscription to Magazine, \$1.00 per year;
Membership \$1.50 per year; Magazine
and Membership combined, \$2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month
at Theosophical Society, 4th at Olive.
7:30 P. M.

Balboa Park in Wartime

By W. Allen Perry

The sun still shines on Balboa Park, but we value its rays in a different manner. Photosynthesis, resulting in the manufacture of sugar and starch in plants, is of secondary importance. The prime importance of the sun in the Park these days is the restoration of muscle and nerve and the manufacture of robust health in the thousands of sick and wounded patients in the "Balboa Annex" of the great United States Naval Hospital.

The entire Exposition Area of the Park is devoted to the hospitalization of medical cases, the greater portion of which are ambulatory. All hours of the day you will find these men with their shirts off, or in trunks, soaking up the actinic rays as eagerly as any shrub or flower. Others are out in wheel chairs. Perhaps the happiest patients are those which are wheeled right out on their beds. With their jackets off and the legs of their pajamas rolled up these men are getting one of the most important medications of all. And the colors of the flowers are, temporarily, of little significance compared with the deepening, glowing sun-tans of these fighting men.

And what do we have in the Moro and Alcazar Gardens at this season? We have Navy Nurses and Waves—and who would ask for roses or Pansies? Since these gardens are adja-

cent to the buildings in which the girls are quartered, they afford wonderful private and secluded recreational and lounging spaces. They are gay and comfortable with tables, umbrellas, swings and those furnishings which contribute to the relaxation of these busy and immensely valuable women.

Balboa Park is accustomed to "the first," "the greatest" and "the only." Now, in the Palisades Area, we have the greatest and only school for Navy Hospital Corpsmen in the United States. All such training has been consolidated in this one school which will send forth thousands of Corpsmen to aid the sick and wounded.

Naturally, the conversion of this park area from a great cultural and recreation center to a component of a 12,000 bed hospital has necessitated many changes. However, no irreparable damage has been done, and every consideration has been given to preserving every possible permanent park improvement. For this consistent and conscientious cooperation the City of San Diego and everyone interested in the Park is indebted to Captain Morton D. Willcuts, (MC) USN., Commanding Officer of The United States Naval Hospital. In every instance Captain Willcuts has sought to provide for the vital functions of his tremendous hospital in a manner which will leave no permanent "scar tissue" on Balboa Park.

During this period when the park program is so drastically curtailed, the

Department has been dealing in futures by planning many improvements. Of primary importance are those plans for the development of the Park Boulevard frontage from Upas Street to the Naval Hospital. The dilapidated Indian Village will be removed, lawns and trees will make this area comparable to the Sixth Avenue side of the Park. Ample parking spaces will be provided. The Park Service Yard will be removed from the south side of Laurel Street and an appropriate park entrance will be developed in this location. A Municipal Rose Garden is projected for the west side, a garden in which roses will glory in beds, on pergolas and on treillage.

Extensive recreation developments will be added to Morley Field. A Model Yacht Basin, a fly casting pool, and a proper archery range will be added and planting will be completed throughout the entire area. The Riding Academy will be moved to this general location to permit extensive park development on the site of the present stables. And, of course, the Exposition Area will be rehabilitated as project of primary importance.

With public support and an active citizen interest, Balboa Park will be tremendously improved and developed. The future will demand much work and the expenditure of considerable money if the possibilities of this great area are to be realized. The present demands patience, active planning, and a recognition of the fact that the Park is now serving well its immediate, vital function.

Joyce Kilmer doubted the possibility of ever seeing a poem lovely as a tree. Doubtless, he would have had an equally keen reaction upon seeing men come back to life and usefulness under these trees.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN for FALL, 1944

Meetings of Floral Association

By Myrtle L. Carse

Mr. Guy L. Fleming, District Superintendent of the California State Division of Parks, reviewed the history and preservation of the Torrey Pines, at our May meeting. Excerpts follow:

"California is one of the fortunate states, having many rare trees, shrubs, plants and especially our conifers, remnants of vast general forests of those particular species, *Sequoia gigantea*, *Sequoia sempervirens*, Monterey Cypress and our own Torrey Pines, all now preserved in a series of California State Parks."

"The Torrey Pines, indigenous to the present site of Torrey Pines Park and Santa Rosa Island, some thirty miles off the Coast, west of the Park, were discovered as a new species in 1850 at the time of the Mexican Boundary Survey. Until 1916, the present park was given over to sheep and cattle grazing. Forest fires were denuding the slopes and drying up the springs and visitors were cluttering the landscape with debris from picnic lunches."

Then the Natural History and Floral Associations appointed Mr. Fleming and Ralph Sumner to study the Pines and make recommendations for their preservation, and Miss Ellen Scripps came to the rescue and purchased the site until further arrangements could be agreed upon. Mr. Alfred D. Robinson then made a plea for a clean-up, and about fifty persons took lunch and an incinerator and set out for the day. Among them was Mrs. Greer, who arrived with some old slippers and shoes she had taken along for a good omen to ward off the evil-doers for the rest of time. The party finished by erecting signs asking the co-operation of the Public and reported: "The deed is done: the Torrey Pines now have a new lease on life."

"The age of the oldest Santa Rosa tree is about 300 years and that of the oldest Torrey Pines Park tree about 250 years. The Santa Rosa trees are slightly larger, one rivaling the tallest *Sequoia*. The cones are the only American ones requiring three years for maturity. One tree at the edge of Painted Gorge Canyon has sent its roots 200 feet down. Cones have been

cut and sent to many places. In Adelaide, Australia, the trees grow tall and symmetrical. A tree in Pasadena, planted about 1880, has a diameter of four and one-half feet; a spread and height of eighty feet. Another of the same diameter with a spread of 125 feet grows in Carpinteria across from the school along highway 101. And a third good specimen flourishes back of Dr. Post's Office on Girard St., La Jolla, with its roots completely covered by pavement."

"Torrey Pines Preserve is not a place of typical scenery. It is not representative of the primitive, natural landscape of San Diego County, or any other place in the World. It is itself alone, unanimated; with precipitous cliffs carved and sculptured by the erosion of Time. It is picturesque, unique, colorful and beautiful, with a combination of nearby sea and distant mountains that delights the eye and nourishes the soul. It is adorned with Botanic Species that occur nowhere else so endemic; and as such, it should be kept, true to itself, typical of nothing, since it is an *accent* in a land where interesting landscapes abound."

JUNE MEETING

Our President, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, called for a report from the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Stewart H. Carse, who offered in nomination the names of the existing Board of Directors who were then unanimously elected to serve for the ensuing year, the Secretary, Mrs. DeForrest Ward, casting the Ballot.

Though we walked, boarded a bus and then a street-car, as some of our loyal members and friends now have to do in order to reach even such a central location as our present meeting place, the Theosophical Center at 2772 Fourth Avenue, we were amply repaid for attending the June meeting, for our Vice-President, Silas B. Osborn, took us to places in the "Back Country" we could not have found by ourselves even with unlimited gasoline, and once there would not have seen as much nor gleaned the information given us by the beautiful pictures and descriptive information accompanying them, as one colorful slide followed another. Mr. Os-

born was complimented by the presence of several Research Engineers, accompanied by their wives, here from different parts of the United States to study the Natural Resources of this Section.

This being the last meeting of the fiscal year, the usual custom of serving refreshments was followed.

JULY MEETING

The evening of July eighteenth found us assembled for the beginning of another year, with our beloved President, Mrs. Greer, reelected to the position she has held for the past twenty years, undaunted by the difficulties besetting one on every hand in arranging programs and procuring speakers, during these stressful days of gasoline and tire shortage, possibly the worst experienced by any other President of our Floral Association. And if you are reading this in the *California Garden*, it is because she has overcome many and sundry obstacles and set such a good example that several faithful followers could not do else but share their precious time rather than disappoint such a valiant leader.

Mr. Charles Harbison, Curator of Insects, of the Natural History Museum Staff, gave a very interesting talk on Lower California, illustrated by pictures he had taken on a recent trip.

Do It Now!

If you have a sunny flower bed where you want a carpet of color, you have no doubt found that annuals are best for that spot. Of the annuals, the old standby is the viola. However, you may now vary the bed a bit and still have the same mass of color by planting pansies, because it is now possible to get pansy seeds in separate colors, if you send away for them.

The Ullswater pansy, described as the blue of Swiss Lakes, with a splash of black in the center, should make a very effective bed with borders of Coronation Gold. September is a good month to get your seeds started.

September and October are the best months to put iris in the ground. The finest of all varieties is the *Iris Kaempferi*. Planted in a mass or as a border they are ideal. A few edging a stream or pool is something to remember. This type of iris will thrive in any garden, given sufficient water and good drainage.

Lillian Brown

Troublesome Plants

Ida Louise Bryant

That is the title of a good article in the June-July issue of *GOLDEN GARDENS*, one of the best little garden magazines for California, particularly south of the Tehachapi, that it has been our privilege to review. It is the official publication of the California Garden Clubs, Inc., and is published at Beverly Hills, monthly except July, rate seventy-five cents a year. Women readers take notice, the editorial and business staff is entirely feminine.

To go back to "troublesome plants." The author, Knight Dunlap of Los Angeles, lists many that we have struggled with in our beginning gardening days; and because we all *know* better than we *do*, we continue to plant them and let them get the best of us. It is a *rara avis* in the gardening line who makes a garden plan and sticks to it, to the furthest corner. Do you know any such? We all have things that we know were never meant for the spot they're cluttering up; often they're not even California subjects to begin with, and will never adapt themselves to our conditions. But we confess, that as for us, we haven't the backbone to yank them out and put something tried and true in their places.

The article we're considering speaks first of *Pittosporums* and their messy ways. We have all suffered from the seed nuisance of the undulatum variety; while others bear seeds as profusely, the undulatum seems to lead with an almost 100 per cent germination record. One could, by starting off with a tree each of *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Eugenia myrtifolia*, live in a jungle in no time. The author says that few other plants seem to grow well near *Pittosporums*. Attempting to supply additional fertilizer merely results in increased growth of the greedy *Pittosporums*.

He speaks of willows as having roots that spread far and wide superficially, and that seem to sap the soil as well as poison it for other plants. He warns that even *Fuchsias*, upward rooting and adaptable in most any shady place, won't grow within fifty feet of a willow, unless its lateral roots are kept cut.

With the willow, he classes the

Phoenix palm and the rubber tree as a trio that give a great deal of trouble to householders because of the way their roots enter drainpipes through the tiniest aperture, and eventually fill up the pipe. This refers particularly to the old type of terra cotta drains, as against the impervious cast iron pipes.

Oleanders, species of *Nerium*, are also spoken of as poisoning the soil with their roots. The writer has found that after an oleander is dug out, vines and other plants will not thrive in the spot for several years. He does not mention that it is generally believed that the leaves are poisonous to cattle. We know for a fact that a healthy young heifer died suddenly while grazing under an oleander tree in the door yard of a northern California ranch; and have heard of other authenticated cases.

It is strange that oleanders are planted so generally if, as Webster's International Dictionary says: "Every part of the plant (*Nerium oleander*) is poisonous." The World Book speaks of its popularity as a pot plant, but says that children should be cautioned against handling it. In the *Encyclopedia Britannica* we find that it was well known to the Greeks, and that Pliny (XVI 20) speaks of its rose-like flowers and poisonous qualities. Are these authorities laboring under a general misapprehension, like that which beclouded the enjoyment of the "love-apple" of our grandmothers, for years on end? At any rate, the nurserymen haven't heard of the tabu.

To return to our writers, we can't agree with him when he says: "Among the shrubs to be avoided is the *Cotoneaster*, the seeds of which come up everywhere." We have found the *pannosa* variety to be troublesome about seeding, we must admit; but there are many species, among them some of our finest berried shrubs. We concede that *Eugenias* are "almost as bad" at self-seeding. When we had a shady garden, periodically we made plans for setting up a *Eugenia* Dispensing Station—"Pull your own plants for a hedge! All you can carry away, FREE! But they are beautiful trees, notwithstanding, and inval-

able in certain spots.

Having had no experience with the Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica halliana*) we were surprised to find it listed as "a pest of the first order. In the moister East it has taken whole forests and ruined lawns. Wherever you irrigate, it spreads if it gains a foothold." Living in a semi-arid climate does have its compensations, it seems.

The catalogue of one of our larger nurseries describes Hall's Honeysuckle as "thriving equally on coast or desert, in sun or shade. For rapid growth, dense foliage and quantities of fragrant flowers this Honeysuckle is unexcelled, and it grows easily anywhere. "With an all-engulfing, rapacious easiness, according to the writer of our article, who has evidently had bitter experiences with it in the "moister East."

He goes on to say that there are so many deciduous and evergreen trees which are ornamental and bear fruit, that it seems a shame to plant trees which are no handsomer, and which have bad habits. If one wants avocados, one can put up with the tree's thievish habits. (He had commented earlier in the article on the beauty and usefulness of avocado trees, but warned that roses and shrubs cannot be grown near them, as the roots go far, particularly into well-fertilized spots). Citrus trees, the writer declares, give no trouble, and loquats, guaves, feijoas and pomegranates are highly recommended.

The article concludes by naming two trees under which grass and shrubs grow well, the walnut and the redwood. *Fuchsias* will grow at the roots of the latter, he says; and that though it may be an exaggeration, farmers have long had the idea that grass grows better under walnut trees than anywhere else. Two plants which he has found will thrive near *Pittosporums* and willows are *Ipomea* (morning-glory) and *Vinca* (periwinkle), both spreading like wildfire, and taking constant trimming to keep within bounds. (As far as our own gardening is concerned, those two might as well have been left undiscovered!)

Note the date which appears after the mailing address on the cover of your California "Garden" and when your subscription expires, please renew promptly.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN for FALL, 1944

An Arboretum

By C. I. Jerabek

To a real plant lover there is a great fascination in growing unfamiliar things, testing them out, experimenting until the proper culture is achieved. This is what we are doing in the Balboa Park nursery today, on a small scale.

Unfortunately there does not exist any arboretum in this locality at the present time. But, San Diegans have a world of possibilities open to them, if the plant lovers of this city will become enthusiastic enough to promote such a project.

The Park Department has plenty of stock on hand to form the nucleus for such a collection.

Although there are thousands of various types of plants in pots, tubs and cans, there are also a number of specimen plants in the nursery grounds. To describe them all would be too lengthy a job, so now I shall only describe some of the blue flowering ones:

Clerodendron myricoides, "Blue Butterfly Bush," has lovely panicles of deep blue flowers with long protruding stamens. This shrub has a rather open habit of growth and blooms nearly the year around. In good soil it often reseeds itself.

Vitex macrophylla, "Chaste tree," is a spreading shrub with cut foliage and dense terminal spikes of pale lilac-blue flowers.

Solanum lanceolatum, one of the best shrubs for a hillside planting, very prolific in growth and flowering habits.

Dyschoriste thunbergiflora. A dwarf shrub growing to about four feet, then sending out side shoots to form a dense bush. During the summer it is covered with blue trumpet-shaped flowers.

Tibouchina semidecanda, "Princess Flower." A shrub with soft velvety, bronzy-green foliage and royal purple flowers from 2 to 3 inches across.

Buddleja alteinifolia, the arching and pendulous branches are wreathed from end to end with lilac-colored, fragrant flowers. In the Springtime the blossoms grow so close together as to almost hide the stems, but during the remainder of the year there is only an occasional grouping of flowers.

Salvia Pitcheri. A shrub from 4 to

5 feet in height with delightful flowers of the brightest azure-blue, carried in long racemes, foliage silver dusted. A good shrub to plant in a mixed border.

Aster frickartii, "Glory of Stacfa." A perennial plant about eighteen inches in height with masses of light lilac-blue flowers from 2 to 3 inches across. Blooming period, spring to late fall.

Stokesia cyanea, "Cornflower aster." Another interesting perennial, also of a low growing habit. It has handsome lavender-blue centaurea-like blossoms, from 3 to 4 inches across.

If anyone is interested in vines, here are a number of attractive specimens:

Securidaca volubilis, a vine that won't overwhelm its location as some climbers do. On its long arching branches of light green lustrous foliage are clusters of dainty violet-colored pea-shaped flowers.

Solanum Wendlandii, "Costa Rican Paradise Flower." A magnificent climber with light green lobed leaves and large showy clusters of lilac-blue flowers. An excellent vine for a lathhouse, giving ample shade in summer and plenty of light during the winter months, when it is deciduous.

Hardenbergia Comptoniana is also a good vine which branches very freely, the branchlets covered with trifoliate leaves of a deep shiny green. In season, winter, this is covered with racemes of purple pea-shaped flowers.

Thunbergia grandiflora, "Sky-Flower." A rampant grower with light green foliage and large funnel-shaped sky-blue flowers, an outstanding vine.

These plants must be seen growing to be really appreciated.

AMAZING VERSATILITY OF SEEDS

The amazing ability of certain seeds to retain their vitality under the most unfavorable conditions has been demonstrated by experiments of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in which seeds buried in the ground for 30 years sprouted in two days.

SWEET ALYSSUM

If there's one plant that just loves to grow,

And thrive in spite of weeds,
It's darling Sweet Alyssum,
We plant from tiny seeds.

And oh what dainty little blooms,
So scented and so white,
And how it just adores to stretch
Its tiny head up to the light.
And it will fill a garden spot,

Where nothing else will do,
And oh how beautiful it looks

In gloaming's deep, dark blue!
And when the sun is shining hot,

When most flowers long for night,
Alyssum smiles just all the while,

Its philosophy is so bright.

So from this tiny little flower,

A lesson let us learn;

Let's fight the weeds and smile the while

Then happiness we'll earn.

Items like the one reprinted below from the Issue of January, 1922, makes one realize that over the years this modest publication has served a useful and inspirational purpose. The late A. D. Robinson of begonia fame, the first editor of "California Garden" started this publication on its way and carried it along through many difficulties. Perhaps more of our subscribers would like to assist by furnishing copy, either of their own writing or of people known to them who have something interesting and helpful to say about plants and gardening. Julia Van Der Veer has arrived as a writer, as is well known to many of our subscribers, but some twenty-two years ago she had something to say and the editor believes it was said quite effectively.

"Dear Mr. Robinson—I don't suppose you will print this little verse, but I am sending it because I love our "California Garden." I don't have as much time with flowers as I would like to. You see my school takes up so much time and then when one is trying to turn a very naughty little puppy into a sensible dog, one has all they can do to keep that same pup out of the garden, let alone giving it the proper attention. Some day I hope to have a real garden with a lathhouse such as you describe in our magazine. As a rule I wouldn't write such an unbusiness-like letter to a real editor, but I've seen you and heard you talk, so I feel as if I knew you. I hope you will read my verse, at least.

Julia Van Der Veer."

Spanish Daggers

By Helen Weldin

[Editor's Note: This fine article on yuccas appeared in the June, 1935 issue of the "California Garden." Appropos of our troubled times the leaves of certain species, notably *Yucca Mohavensis*, are being utilized currently for the production of fiber to replace the normal supply of "Manila Hemp" which, before our entry into this war, was produced exclusively in the Philippine Islands from a plant in the banana family, *Musa textilis*.]

Of sunning fount
Spreads facets to the sky—
So yucca lifts her fairy cups
Of dew.

Each spring and early summer southern California slopes are peopled with the snow dignity of yuccas, extravagant in their display of bell shaped flowers. Staunchly rising out of barren hillsides where little other vegetation grows, they wave their plumed stalks as olden knights flaunted the trophies of their court favorites. Yucca is the Spanish word for "bayonet," hence the term "Spanish dagger" is commonly applied to all yuccas, but particularly of the Mohave yucca that flourishes so widely in this state.

This genus of plant, belonging to the lily family, consists of at least thirty known species. They grow most abundantly in Mexico and the southwestern part of the United States, but are also found in the southern states, the Rocky mountain region, and on the Great Plains as far north as Dakota, and have been observed to cover such dense areas in the southwest as to form straggling miniature forests. The woody, fibrous stems are usually short, but sometimes aborescent as in the case of the Joshua tree, bearing at the top a crown of rigid sword shaped leaves, from which springs an erect flower cluster of small ivory cups. The fruit may have a thin, fleshy outer covering which dries on the shell when the seed chambers do not open of their own accord, or it may consist of a stiff, crisp shell sometimes tending to split open at the top, but usually remaining closed. Whether the seeds open or not, they fall to the ground in a dry and brittle condition and are carried far from the parent tree by wind or water, being finally

broken up and scattered widely. Large quantities of yucca seeds are eaten by rodents, and the birds, feeding on the fleshy fruit, assist in distributing them. Although the seeds are highly susceptible to blight from attacks by moths, the flowers are forced to depend on this agency entirely for their fertilization.

The Mohave yucca has been known for about fifty years, but until eleven years ago was confused with two other species. The belt of growth extends from northeastern Arizona and southern Nevada, across the Mohave desert into California, and from the southern base of the San Bernardino mountains to the coast and north to Monterey. They are sometimes on mountain slopes four thousand feet above sea level and again on the floor of the desert. The Mohave yucca grows low, practically always under ten or twelve feet from the ground; the trunk is seldom over ten inches in diameter. Where freed from dead leaves the cross checked and furrowed bark is a dark umber brown. Distinctive characteristics of the Mohave yucca are found in the length and form the dagger-like leaves and the fruit. The yellowish green leaves are sixteen to twenty-four inches in length, tapering off to a sharp point from a three-inch base, each blade thin and strongly rolled from the middle to the point of the leaf. A single branched cluster of flowers rises fourteen to sixteen inches from the nest of young green leaves, and the pulpy, sweetish fruit ripens late in August or early September and hangs on a slender drooping stem. The seeds are flat, blackish in color, and are packed in six chambers of the fruit. The wood is fairly soft and light in weight. No definite statement can be made concerning age limit, but careful observation has proven that the Mohave yucca is a slow, persistent grower in its own habitat, and scarcely any change has been perceived in trees that have been watched for the past twenty-five years.

Yucca Brevifolia, or branching yucca, more familiarly known as the Joshua tree, is the old man of the desert, featured with a grotesqueness seldom duplicated in nature. Easily the wildest looking denizen of the desert

hills and plans, the Joshua tree grows disdainfully aloof from all other plant development. There are no branches until the tree has once bloomed, when each season thereafter a newly weird and crooked arm extends itself menacingly upward. Never would any living thing dare intrude upon the ground guarded by this botanical monster, and the appearance of the wickedly clumsy branches alone would easily discourage any natural enemy, if it is possible that any natural enemy would be tactless enough to admit its dislike for such a creature. The wood of the trunk varies from one to two feet in diameter and is much harder than that of the smaller varieties of yuccas. The usual height is from eighteen to twenty-five feet, but occasionally one may be seen thirty to thirty-five feet tall. Like its sister plant, this tree is slow and stubbornly persistent in its growth and attains to the ripe age of one or two hundred years—and in some instances there is little doubt that it has amiably rounded out a third of a century. The strong, tough roots descend to a great depth for their nourishment, thus giving a firm anchorage. Although many trees are bent and bowed like rheumatic old men, few ever actually succumb to storm and practically never to fire, as fire will not burn the stiff, hard leaves.

Various popular names have attached to the different species of the low bearing yuccas. *Yucca Whipplei* is sometimes called "Our Lord's Candle" because of the hundreds and at times literally thousands of drooping candle white bells that spring from the green cricle of leaves. This is especially plentiful and grows unusually high in some of the canyons of the San Bernardino range. *Yucca Filamentosa* is the original "Spanish bayonet" and perhaps most widely known. The yucca thrives well in Great Britain and is there known as "Adam's Needle." Because of the characteristic shredding of the leaves of the *Filamentosa*, this species is designated as "Eve's Thread." In the variegated *Filamentosa*, the light green, shredded leaves are edged with a broad band of yellow.

Yuccas are of ancient origin, and their remains have been traced as far back as the Tertiary period. Evidence of the practical part they have played in the lives of primitive people has been revealed by the Indian tribes of the Comanche, Apache, Navajo, Pueb-

(Continued on page 7)

Pot Gardening

By M. A. B.

To many people "gardening with pots" is the acme of gardening. They often say that they wish all their plants, shrubs and trees were on wheels so they could move them about according to their whim for artistic effects. However, the "green thumb," consistent attention, perseverance in attacks on pests, persistent care and an understanding of the needs the state of health, and the individual habits of each plant are all very necessary for success in this form of gardening.

Pot gardening is very popular in southern California due to climatic conditions and the style of architecture used. Homes and patios are designed for out door living. It is almost as important now to be an "exterior decorator" as an interior decorator. The choice of pots and containers from an artistic standpoint is very important in the furnishing of the house or the patio. The grouping of the colors of the flowers and the harmonious blending of the colors of the pots is essential for pleasing results.

Of course if you are a real gardener your first thought will be for the welfare of your chosen plants. You will consider the size of the container suitable for the plant. You will consider the soil suitable for the particular plant. You will consider the drainage necessary. And then you will give constant and intelligent care to watering, spraying and fertilizing.

There are many interesting plants used for decorative purposes which are suitable for the house as ferns, philodendrons, ivies (many varieties), flowering bulbs and unusual foliage plants.

The *Ficus pandorata* (fiddle-leaved fig) is a very decorative plant for the house. It has large fiddle or banjo shaped leaves with very striking white veins. It is practically free from pests. It should be watered only when dry. Leaves should be kept clean by frequent washings.

The Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) has particularly beautiful foliage and is an unusual plant for the house. The large glossy leathery leaves have very prominent red veins. It likes rich sandy soil. In Florida it grows along the

sandy sea shore sometimes reaching 20 feet or more.

Another beautiful plant is the Croton (*Codiaeum*) from the Greek for head, the colored leaves being used for crowning wreaths. It has very interesting foliage of the most brilliant coloring. The distinct colorings make them desirable specimen plants. When pots of appropriate color are chosen they greatly enhance the beauty of the plants. They need good rich not too heavy soil and plenty of light but not direct sun through glass. They should be sprayed frequently for red spider.

The *Araucaria excelsa* (always a specimen), Bailey says, is the most prized pot-evergreen in cultivation and is used a great deal in house decorations. It has a distinct appearance and a unique form. It is not only attractive but will stand hard usage. It should be kept in a cool room near a window.

There are also many beautiful and desirable plants and shrubs for the patio. These should be chosen in scale with the size of the patio, for a harmonious color scheme and to satisfy one's whims and tastes.

The *Myrtus communis* is most satisfactory. The foliage is attractive and although the flowers are small and dainty it blooms continuously for about eight months. It apparently has no pests.

The *Ternstroemia Japonica*, a shrub of slow growth, is attractive for its lustrous leathery leaves tinged with purple. It needs an acid soil and pruning to shape and thicken.

Citrus limonia (Meyer or Chinese lemon) is one of the finest pot plants for the patio. The foliage is good, the blossoms are very fragrant, and usually there are blossoms and fruit in the various stages on it, the year around. The fruit is excellent and has a pleasing pungent odor.

The *Nerium oleander* (Oleander) is a very good tub plant. It blooms profusely and can be had in a large variety of colors. It is subject to scale but this can be easily checked.

The *Euphorbia splendens* (crown of thorns) can be so trained that it will make a very artistic and ornamental plant for a warm place in the pa-

tio. It flowers nearly all the year but mostly in the winter and is very striking.

Some pot plants and shrubs are chosen for form and beauty of foliage, others for a profusion of bloom, but the real joy of "gardening with pots" is that they can all be moved about for charming effects.

M. A. B.

Roland S. Hoyt Appointed To Park Board

The appointment of Roland S. Hoyt, San Diego's well known landscape architect, to the San Diego City Park Board is particularly gratifying to his many friends in the city. Mr. Hoyt, who incidentally was the former editor of the California Garden, is ideally qualified to serve the City by reason of his wide knowledge of plant life, both endemic and exotic, which are the basic raw materials from which parks are made. Considering his additional qualification as a designer of landscape effects Mr. Hoyt's appointment takes on added significance.

RAINFORD Flower Shop



CUT FLOWERS

Flower Designs



2140 Fourth Avenue San Diego

The Useful Acacias

By K. A.

The family of Australian Acacias is a large one—well over 400 species, and they range in size from tiny shrubs to forest trees over 100 ft. in height. They grow in every part of the continent, from the dry arid desert regions to swampy coast lands and there are a couple of varieties that grow in the salty sand of the shore itself.

In these few paragraphs we are mentioning only a half dozen of the tree Acacias—the most beautiful of those that grow in California and that would make glorious masses of color in winter and spring.

The giant of the family is that much abused friend of a generation ago—the Blackwood Acacia. Heedless of the fact that in its homeland it is a forest tree over 100 feet tall and 20 feet in circumference, we have planted it in narrow parkings, beside walks and in tiny gardens and, as it grew, have impatiently slashed and cut and lopped until the result is but a caricature of the tree that might have been. But in a wide parking away from electric and telephone wires it has its place and its billowing masses of blackish green would make an excellent foil for eucalyptus.

As a whole the Acacias are divided into those with bi-pinnate, fernlike leaves (often mistakenly called mimosas) and the larger number which really have no leaves at all but only the flattened petioles that perform the functions of leaves.

Of the ferny leaved family two of the best are *A. decurrens mollis* and *A. dealbata*, the Black Wattle and Silver Wattle of Australia. They are both handsome fast growing trees with stout smooth trunks and spreading heads of feathery foliage. The Black Wattle bears its lemon yellow flowers in July and August. The Silver Wattle is a mass of fuzzy orange bloom in January and February.

The Copper Wattle, *A. pruinosa*, is another of the bi-pinnates and a useful one for it stands salt breezes.

A. pycnantha—the Golden Wattle—is not grown often here though Miss Sessions had a beautiful specimen at her home in Pacific Beach. It is a real tree and in spring is a fragrant mass of orange globes; but it is brittle

and needs protection from winds.

There are three Acacias with a weeping habit that would make excellent feature trees—not too large—for a small lawn or garden. The first is the rather well known *Acacia pendula*. There is a beautiful specimen opposite, the Museum in Presidio Park that no one who has ever passed that way could fail to notice. And, as you can see there, it endures wind.

The other two are lovely in or out of bloom but they are most noted for the glory of their spring blooming season. They are *A. Riceana* and *A. pubescens*, the Hairy Wattle. This latter prefers partial shade and you may find two forms of it at the nurseries. *A. Riceana* has long branches that almost reach the ground but, like many of the family, it needs protection from the wind and, as it is a native of Tasmania, likes plenty of water and shade.

Of course every one knows the spectacular *A. baileyana*. Even if it is short lived and a ground robber there must be a corner in almost every lawn or garden where one could be tucked away.

These are only a few of an enormously large and very beautiful family. Why don't we grow more?

K. A.

California Garden Now In Thirty-Sixth Year

During the war period the "California Garden" has been kept alive only by reason of the determination of the San Diego Floral Association's officers to leave no effort undone to maintain the continuity of this publication now in its thirty-sixth year of publication. Difficulties too numerous to enumerate have arisen but it is now hoped to publish quarterly until the pressure of wartime conditions subsides at which time renewal of regular monthly publication is planned. Subscribers and members forbearance of the unpredictable dates of publication, as has occurred in the past, is requested with the assurance that regular quarterly publication is now deemed feasible.

Spanish Dagger

(Continued from page 5)

los, Havasupai, Mohave, Pima, Papago, Maricopa, Walapai, Paiute, Panamint, and the Dieguenos. The fibers of *Filamentosa* stems and foliage are the "silk grass" so often mentioned by the early writers of Virginia, and used by the Mexicans of the south for cordage. Countless specimens of sandals, cordage and other relics from the caves and cliff houses of the ancient southern and southwestern tribes prove that they considered this fiber highly valuable. Today, the tough fiber-like wood is of little commercial value, although a possible use has been suggested in the making of paper pulp. However, we do not anticipate writing our letters on yucca stationery in the near future. We do not even crave the aristocratic distinction of transplanting a yucca to our own domain, not at least while the maximum penalty constitutes a rest of six months in jail or a fine of five hundred dollars!

"Bear grass," so called by the Mexicans, was the fiber of the *Glaucia* species and was used for making the seats of chairs. The fruit, resembling small

(Continued on page 8)




Spanish Daggers

(Concluded from page 7)

bananas, was cooked as an article of diet by the Mexicans as well as the Indian tribes of New Mexico and Arizona. The flowers of *Filamentosa* and *Gloriosa* were eaten by the Virginia Indians and tribes farther south. Roots of the yucca contain a saponaceous matter used in place of soap (called amole) by the southwestern tribes, and used particularly by the Pueblos for washing the hair—a blessing indeed in a territory where water is alkaline. The Kioa added the roots to a preparation used in the tanning of skins. The Navajos made a green dye from the chopped leaves of *Yucca Baccata* in conjunction with another plant, and the Zuni tribe extracted the juice from the fruit of *Glaucia* and, after boiling it, used it in the manufacture and decoration of pottery. The dried flower stalk came to be an excellent material for fire drills among the Apache and Zuni cliff dwellers. After boiling the stalk of *Glaucia*, the Zuni shredded it with their teeth to procure a strong, straight fiber, from which hairbrushes and many other practical articles were then constructed. The Pueblos of the

extreme southwest used thin strips of the leaf as paint brushes in decorating their pottery, masks, tablets, dolls and prayer sticks. In basketry, the leaves and slender fibrous roots were extensively used in the making of trays, plates, bows, mats for household use, and shrouds for the dead. The fiber was used in straight bunches or twisted into cord for making nets, noose snares, bowstrings, sandals, cloth and warp for rabbit skin, and feather robes, while single threads were used in their natural state for sewing and tying. The Papago twisted his fiber into cord by a simple device held in the hand. The net of the carrying frame (kihu) of the Pima and Papago Indian is elaborately worked and resembles a delicate, flowerlike lace. The Zuni carried dried flower stalks in certain ceremonies, and the Hopi and Pueblo tribes used the leaves for simulating flagellations in their initiation rites. On and on we might recount the uses of this remarkable plant were it possible to drift back into that past age.

A field of blooming yuccas against a brown and clay baked mountainside is not a sight soon forgotten, whether they flower as a crown of the Mohave yucca or the ghoulish Joshua tree.

They thrive like horny cactus where more delicate and fragile plants would soon perish, yet invariably with the springtime, present the world with hearts of radiant lily bells that ring a welcome from every California hillside.

For the botanically minded, each flower possesses a perianth, or combined calyx and corolla, or six regular pieces, and has as many hypogynous stamens, (growing from the axis beneath the pistil or ovary)—for the non-botanist!) with dilated filaments, bearing relatively small anthers. The three celled ovary is surmounted by a short, thick style, dividing above into three stigmas, and ripens into a succulent berry in some of the species and into a dry three valve capsule in others.

Water grass (crabgrass) is an annual and dies in the fall. In a few weeks, say about the middle of November, it should be all dead. Then take a Bermuda grass rake and go over the lawn thoroughly, raking both ways and taking out every bit of dead water grass. Next sow grass seed, either blue grass and clover or a special mixture intended for winter growth, rather heavily and work it in.

POINT LOMA NURSERIES

General Nursery Stock

Specialties

1308 GREENWOOD AVE.

(Linda Vista Road)

Phone W-3588